

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed March 5, 2008 has been entered.

Drawings

The drawings were received on March 5, 2008. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Claim recites that the "said locking projections" is longer than the other", which is ambiguous because it does not say specifically to what the locking projection is longer than.

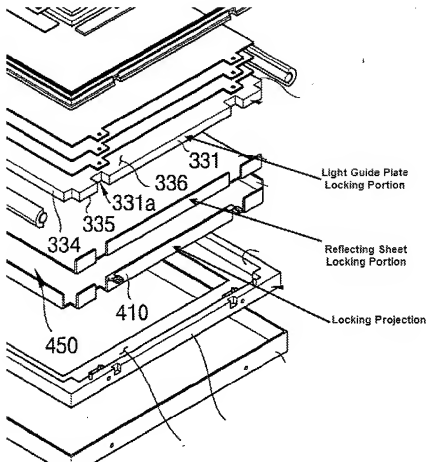
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (2003/0223020) in view of Onishi (JP 2000180854) and Shiotani (JP 2002-006142).

Regarding Claim 1, Lee discloses in Figure 1, a lighting unit comprising a housing 400, 500 having a rectangular bottom wall, wherein a locking projection (vertical side tab extending from the bottom wall of chassis 400 as shown in the annotated figure) that projects from said bottom wall is formed respectively at a pair of facing side edges of the housing; a reflection sheet 350 that has locking portions (as shown in the annotated figure) that lock with said locking projections, a light guide plate 330 that is laminated over said reflection sheet and has locking portions (as shown in the annotated figure) that lock with said locking projections (seen to lock as they are fixedly and immovably secured to the locking projection when assembled), and light sources 310 deployed at both ends of said light guide plate 330 and wherein said locking projections are formed on the center line that connects the center points of those of said light guide plate's edges on which no light source is deployed.



Lee discloses in Figure 1, said locking projections are linear projections of a particular length that are parallel to the facing side edges.

Lee fails to disclose one of said opposed linear projections is longer than the other.

Onishi discloses in Figure 7, an LCD display with housing having linear locking projections 17 where one is longer than the other on either side of a light guide 11 to achieve a desired dimensional attribute while accommodating a required structural connection between the chassis and the light guide plate (Col 5, lines 20-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adjust the relative dimensions of the linear locking projections in order to accommodate a particular dimensional requirements of the display at the side of the light guide as taught by Onishi, because a person of ordinary skill would have had good reason to pursue the known option of adjusting the relative dimensions which is considered to be within his or her technical grasp. This leads to the anticipated success of achieving a particular dimensional attribute while accommodating a structural connection and it is determined that this claimed feature is not of innovation, but of ordinary skill and common sense. See *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007).

Lee fails to disclose the longitudinal center point of one of said opposed locking projections lies on said center line, while the other locking projection is formed with its longitudinal center point in a position removed from said center line.

Shiotani discloses in Figure 8, an LCD assembly wherein a projection 15 has its longitudinal center point of one of said opposed locking projections lies on said center line, while the other locking projection is formed with its longitudinal center point in a position removed from said center line to achieve a desired dimensional attribute while accommodating a required structural connection between the chassis and the light guide plate (Col 7, lines 9-13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to change the projections of Lee so that the longitudinal center point of the projection lies on the center line and the other having its center point removed from the center line in order to accommodate a particular dimensional requirements of the display at the side of the

light guide as taught by Shiotani, because a person of ordinary skill would have had good reason to pursue the known option of adjusting the dimensions of the projections which is considered to be within his or her technical grasp. This leads to the anticipated success of achieving a particular dimensional attribute while accommodating a structural connection and it is determined that this claimed feature is not of innovation, but of ordinary skill and common sense. See *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007).

Regarding Claim 5, Lee discloses in Figure 1, the liquid crystal display comprising the lighting unit according to claims 1 and further comprising a liquid crystal panel 210 that is located on the irradiating surface side of said lighting unit.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed March 5, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that the locking portions associated with the light guide and the reflecting portions as asserted in the office action are not locking portions which lock in any way. The term "locking portion" is seen to be overly broad that lacks recited structure that would differentiate the claim from the locking portions asserted in the office action. It is suggested to add limitations that would tie the claim language to the structure as shown in Figures 3-4 of the applicant's specification to better distinguish the claim structurally from the prior art. The locking portions of Lee are seen to lock

together when assembled and are fixedly engaged with each other in that they do not move and are interlocked and are held together.

The applicant argues that Onishi fails to disclose the projections 17 is formed on the center line that connects the center points of those light guide plate's edges on which no light source is deployed. This is of no consequence, as Onishi is used merely to show that having projections with one longer than the other would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill irregardless of whether it lies on the center line as this feature is already disclosed by the primary reference Lee.

The applicant argues that Shiotani fails to disclose both of the locking projections as lying on the center line. However, Lee already shows this and Shiotani is used merely to show that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to shift the location of the centerline of the projection off the center line of the light guide plate's edge to achieve a particular dimensional attribute while also achieving an structural connection for a backlight module.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT MAY whose telephone number is (571)272-5919. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays 9am-12pm & 1-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jong-Suk (James) Lee can be reached on (571) 272-7044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Art Unit: 2885

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6/3/08

/John A. Ward/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2885